



May 2004

Dear California Medical Provider:

Enclosed is information about a new statewide program that may affect you. California's **Paid Family Leave** insurance program will soon be accepting its first claims, and the State's medical providers will play a key role in this new program.

Paid Family Leave insurance extends disability compensation to covered workers who must take time off work to care for a *seriously ill* child, spouse, parent, domestic partner, or to bond with a new minor child. Employee contributions began January 1, 2004, and individuals may file claims for benefits beginning **July 1, 2004**. Paid Family Leave is a component of the State Disability Insurance (SDI) program administered by the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

As a medical provider, your understanding of this new program is essential. Claims for caregiving benefits must include a medical provider's certification that attests to the serious health condition of the patient and the need for a family member to provide care. Your patient, the care recipient, will authorize release of their medical information to the EDD and the family member claiming caregiving benefits. Claims for bonding purposes have different requirements, and do not require medical certification.

To help you become more familiar with this new program, enclosed is a copy of The Medical Provider's Guide to Paid Family Leave, DE 2548F, as well as answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

The claim form for Paid Family Leave benefits is separate and distinct from that used for SDI benefits. Whether an individual is requesting benefits due to the need to provide care or to bond, the request must be submitted on the Claim for Paid Family Leave (PFL) Benefits, DE 2501F, form. Since this form has been designed to take advantage of advanced "data capture" technology, it cannot be duplicated or reproduced; an original form must be submitted by claimants.

**The EDD cannot accept completed claim forms (DE 2501F) prior to July 1, 2004;** however, orders may now be placed for this document. To order 25 or fewer, simply call toll-free 1-877-BE-THERE. Claimants may also order forms themselves by calling this toll-free number. If you require more than 25 forms, please help us expedite service by visiting the EDD Internet Order Form Web site at [www.edd.ca.gov/taxrep/taxordn2.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/taxrep/taxordn2.htm).

Medical providers' understanding is vital to the success of Paid Family Leave. If you would like further information, or would like to see a sample claim form, we invite you to visit our Web site at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott J. Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being the most prominent part.

SCOTT J. ROSE, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Employment Development Department

Enclosures